



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA STATE TREASURER PHIL ANGELIDES

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TREASURER ANGELIDES LEADS DELEGATION OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN OPPOSING GOVERNOR'S PLAN TO ELIMINATE COLLEGE OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Governor Schwarzenegger's Budget Proposal Would Cut Funding Critical to Ensuring College Access for Disadvantaged Students

SACRAMENTO, CA – State Treasurer Phil Angelides today led a delegation of high school students from across California to the Capitol to protest Governor Schwarzenegger's proposed elimination of University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) outreach programs that help disadvantaged students prepare for college.

The full day of events, organized in coordination with the Supporters of Education Equality & Diversity (SEED) and the Intersegmental Coalition for Educational Equity, kept a promise Angelides made to students he had met in Oakland and Watsonville in January, when he vowed to help the students come to Sacramento to make their voices heard as the Legislature considers the proposed cuts during deliberations on the State's budget.

The student visit was scheduled for today to coincide with a special legislative hearing on college outreach programs before the Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2 on Education Finance. The Treasurer was expected to accompany several of the students to the hearing, where they were scheduled to testify against the Governor's proposal to eliminate all \$110 million in state funding for UC and CSU outreach efforts for the 2004-05 fiscal year, after slashing funding for the programs by 50 percent earlier this year.

"We are here today fighting for UC and CSU outreach programs because of the role they play in ensuring that our universities represent all of California, and the opportunity they offer to those who otherwise would not have access to higher education," said Angelides. "We want to make sure that all students have the opportunity they deserve to attend our State's renowned colleges and universities, and that students of every background gain the skills they will need to excel in the 21st Century economy."

The delegation of approximately 20 students – representing high schools from Alameda, Monterey, Sacramento, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties – kicked off the day with a news conference, where the students shared with reporters how the very outreach programs the Governor has proposed slashing helped them prepare for and apply for college.

The students – joined at the news conference by Angelides and retired California Supreme Court Associate Justice Cruz Reynoso, state Senators Richard Alarcón (D-Sun Valley), Dede Alpert (D-San Diego), and Kevin Murray (D-Los Angeles), and Assemblymembers Marco Firebaugh (D-E. Los Angeles), Mark Ridley-Thomas (D-Los Angeles), and Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento) – called on legislators to maintain funding for outreach programs in the State’s budget.

Justice Reynoso, Chair of the SEED steering Committee, said the failure to maintain California’s investment in higher education will turn back the clock on educational equality and quality in California. “The bulk of these cuts will have their most devastating impact on the very students who are destined to make up the majority of California’s future workforce – urban and rural middle-income and poor students who are college-eligible,” Reynoso said. “We encourage the Schwarzenegger Administration to take the right action and restore these funding cuts to higher education.”

The students who spoke to save outreach programs included Jenny Gama, a senior at Watsonville High School in Santa Cruz County, who has been active in the Early Academic Outreach Program since the sixth grade. Gama, who will attend the University of California, Davis in the fall, will be the first in her family to attend college.

Also speaking in favor of outreach was Ana Perez, Student Body President at Abraham Lincoln High School in Los Angeles.

Following this morning’s news conference, the delegation was expected to join more than 800 high school students from across the State on the West Steps of the Capitol for a rally opposing the Governor’s budget proposals to cut higher educational opportunities, including outreach efforts.

Later, Angelides was slated to take the students to meet with several members of the Legislature. The students were expected to call on lawmakers to fight the Governor’s proposed budget cuts to higher education and save UC and CSU outreach funding. The special legislative hearing was expected to follow the delegation’s meeting with lawmakers. The students and Angelides were scheduled to appear at the special legislative hearing following their meeting with lawmakers.

In addition to the Governor’s proposed cuts to UC and CSU outreach efforts, the Governor’s Budget also proposes more than \$700 million in funding cuts for the State’s world-renowned public higher education system, along with steep tuition hikes, reduced enrollment and cuts in financial aid (see attached summary of proposed budget impacts).

UC outreach programs alone provide direct assistance – including advising, tutoring, academic enrichment, mentoring and standardized test preparation – to more than 110,000 California K-12 students and community college students statewide. These programs have a powerful impact, providing all California children with opportunities to attend the State’s public universities.

Governor Schwarzenegger's proposals will be especially devastating to poorer students seeking to be the first in their family to attend college. Outreach programs target students in the lowest-performing high schools and those from low-income families—students from groups historically underrepresented in higher education statewide. For example, 40 percent of Latino and African American students now at UC campuses benefited from outreach programs. In addition to eliminating funding for these programs, the Governor has proposed tuition hikes for undergraduates – 10 percent at UC and CSU, and 44 percent at California's community colleges – and at the same time has proposed reducing financial aid to needy students.

In January, Treasurer Angelides visited University of California, California State University, and California Community College campuses from Chico to San Diego, as well as high schools in Oakland and Watsonville, to highlight the critical importance of our public higher education institutions to the California economy, and the role that UC and CSU outreach programs play in helping students from underserved communities achieve their dreams of attending college.

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IMPACTS OF GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER'S BUDGET ON CALIFORNIA'S PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

Governor Schwarzenegger's proposed budget will have a dramatic, negative impact on the University of California (UC), California State University (CSU) and California Community College systems. According to the non-partisan Legislative Analyst's Office, the Governor's Budget "includes over \$700 million in reductions in higher education."

Here are some of the specific impacts of the Governor's budget proposal:

Cuts in Funding

- Reduces UC research funding by 5 percent (\$11.6 million)
- Eliminates General Fund support for the UC Digital California Project, which provides access for K-12 school districts to the Internet (\$14.3 million)
- Eliminates General Fund support for UC and CSU outreach programs (\$110 million)
- Increases student-to-faculty ratios by 5 percent (\$88.7 million)
- Makes unallocated funding reductions, which could lead to, among other things, a loss of course sections (\$98 million for UC and CSU over two years)

Higher Fees and Tuition

- Hikes undergraduate fees at UC and CSU by 10 percent (UC: from \$4,985 to 5,482; CSU: from \$2,046 to \$2,251)
- Hikes fees for graduate students at UC and CSU by 40 percent (UC: from \$5,219 to \$7,307; CSU: from \$2,256 to \$3,158)
- Hikes fees for Community College students by 44 percent (\$18 to \$26 per unit)

Reductions in Enrollment

- The budget proposes to reduce the enrollment at both UC and CSU (8,200 students will be turned away at UC, and 13,800 will be turned away at CSU)

Cuts in Financial Aid

- The budget reduces eligibility for Cal Grants for middle-income families by reducing the family income threshold by 10 percent (For Cal Grant A, from \$67,000 to \$60,840 for a family of four)
- Reduces amount of UC and CSU fee revenue allocated to financial aid from one-third of fee revenues to 20 percent
- Provides no increase in Cal Grant awards to reflect increase in fees at UC and CSU